

THE SMOKE AND WATER

On New Years Eve, December 31st, a fire broke out at 1116 Farnam, and the stock of Clothing owned by B. Newman & Co., was slightly damaged by water. On Sunday, January 6th, another fire was discovered at 1116 Farnam, but did no damage to the stock beyond smoking the goods. The insurance companies have adjusted the loss and now the entire stock must be sold, the sale commencing:

To-Morrow, Monday Morning, January 21st

Everything on first floor at 1116 Farnam St., must go regardless of price, as the stock must not be placed with new goods. You will be able to buy some extraordinary bargains in this stock, which consists of overcoats, pants, suits, shirts, hats, mens' furnishings, valises, etc., etc. A large force of clerks has been engaged, and every preparation made to wait on the crowd.

CLOTHING DAMAGED BY FIRE AND WATER SACRIFICED

The sale commences Monday morning and continues until everything in the store is closed out. You dare not miss this the greatest Clothing sale in Omaha. No prices are quoted as there are none. Come and see and you will buy. This is a genuine knock out.

B. NEWMAN & COMPANY, 1116 Farnam Street

AMONG THE POOR AND LOWLY

Some of Them Mild and Meek, Others Professionally Brazy.

COUNTY AGENT'S DAILY LEVEES.

A "Bee" Reporter Watches Poverty's Victims Apply for Relief—Mrs. Lipp's Threatens a Scene—A Young Woman's Plight.

Douglas County's Charity Room. Poverty is on the increase in Omaha. There is nothing remarkable in that. It is a natural sequence of growth in other directions.

Four years ago, before Douglas county officials had moved from the old ramshackle and weather-beaten building on the corner of sixteenth and Farnam streets, that did duty as a court house, into the more commodious and modern structure on the hill, Ike Pierce, then superintendent of poor, had a comparatively easy time of it. Once or twice a week he would sit in front of the old building, sometimes using a chair, but more often resting his weary bones on the yard hydrant, and issue orders for groceries, medicines or fuel to needy applicants for relief. An hour or two might be consumed in the work. In the winter he would change his post, and transact his business anywhere within the old building that best suited his purpose on the particular day.

Things have changed since then. The old court house has been wiped out of existence, and a stately office building marks the spot. Ike Pierce has been succeeded by John Mahoney as county agent. Omaha has twice as many people as then, and Omaha's pauper population has quadrupled. Instead of dealing with a few cases a week as then, the present county agent furnishes relief to upwards of three hundred families.

There is nothing remarkable about it. Some have grown rich, and the natural law is that poverty will increase as the population increases.

A Bee reporter spent two days of last week—Thursday and Friday—in the county agent's room, and watched the applicants for relief as they came and went. Down in the basement, in the southwest corner of the building, Mr. Mahoney and his assistant, Frank Zimmer, hold daily levees. In the main room is a large bin, divided into four compartments, one filled with flour, another with beans, another with coffee, and the last with tea. At one end is a pile of soap boxes. Around the room are sacks of flour, chests of tea, and bags of coffee and beans. In one room is the county agent's desk and in another the county dispensary, supplied with drugs of variety sufficient to fill the general run of physician's prescriptions. Some relief can be gained when it is known that an average of 1,500 pounds of flour are issued weekly, supplemented by 200 pounds of beans, 100 pounds of tea, 150 pounds of coffee and 300 bars of soap. During the last three days of the past week orders were issued for about fifteen tons of coal in half ton lots.

A check must be kept on the applicants to prevent imposition and a reckless squandering of relief furnished. A certain quantity of groceries is furnished weekly, and to prevent the possibility of "ringing in" often a card is furnished each applicant on the first visit. If it was Thursday, January 10, the date is entered on the card. On subsequent visits for rations the card must be presented, and if the last entry shows that a week has elapsed, which shows the date of delivery. If a week has not elapsed the applicant must go empty-handed until the proper day arrives. No card, no grub. For fuel orders are issued on the contracting form for coal in half ton lots. Each beneficiary is warned to preserve the coal driver's receipts, which shows the date of delivery. If the driver's receipt shows that two weeks have elapsed, another half ton is allowed. If two weeks have not gone by, the relief is refused except where it is

known that sickness exists in the family and unusual demands are made on the coal allowance.

It is an old saying that one-half of the world is ignorant of the way the other half lives. A few hours spent in the County Agent Mahoney's rooms will afford abundant opportunity for study and reflection. Take some of the applicants and inquire into their history. The first to attract the attention of the Bee representative was Mrs. Lipp's.

Mrs. Lipp resides on the bottom. To state that she lives on the bottom is equivalent to saying that Mrs. Lipp is positively poor. Her mother, who was a widow with a wife and five children, two of them sick, a stranger in a great city without work. He has not acquired a residence in Nebraska yet, but still he calls on the county for aid. Six weeks in a great city, sickness overtakes him, and he has not the means to buy medicine. But he wouldn't let \$300 slip away so easily next time.

Two days in County Agent Mahoney's office gave the Bee reporter an excellent opportunity of surmising, at least, how the other half of Omaha lives. How differently the applicants act! There is the decrepit old croone who has called so often she knows about it in a familiar sort of way; the poorly clad children, with pinched and hungry faces, who greet one another in a sort of "met-you-here-before" way; the young widow who comes in with a shy and frightened look, who talks in whispers, and who thinks the crowd around will know she is asking aid to help her feed and clothe her fatherless babes; the impudent and ill-bred boy, who says his name is Hissop, and father's sick, and he wants some coal, and he lives on Fourteenth and Leavenworth, but who is gently informed by Mr. Mahoney that the county can't undertake to provide for professional beggars. In striking contrast were the two little German boys who came in with heads uncovered, but little gentlemen, received their weekly portion, and bowed a thank you as they went out the door; they are the children of recent arrivals from Germany, who, perhaps to their disappointment, failed to find gold dollars growing in the streets of Omaha.

Friday is the busy day of the week. From 11 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon over one hundred people had called and were supplied with a week's provisions. The allowance is equalized as near as possible without weighing, usually three ordinary grocers' scoops of flour, one of beans, coffee and tea each, and two bars of laundry soap. Each strange applicant is visited by either Mr. Mahoney or Mr. Zimmer before anything is furnished. Where the applicant is found worthy the name is entered on the register, with the residence and number in family. If on investigation it is found relief is not warranted, it is refused. An honest case is apparently made to prevent imposition.

Poverty is on the increase in Omaha. "The poor go with you always," and the greater the growth of the city doubly greater in proportion the increase of poverty. It is the natural law.

Prof. Fiske, after eighteen months of hard labor, has raised \$300,000 for the theological seminary at Chicago.

The number of converts in the Japan mission of the American board has increased in fifteen months from 429 to 7,023, a gain of 2,801. This is the most remarkable record in any mission of the board, except the Sandwich Islands.

In the United States alone there are now about ten thousand Women's Christian Temperance unions, comprising a membership of 150,000. In addition, there is the World's Women's Christian Temperance union, and all the foreign interests in other countries.

Students in the Yale theological seminary are engaged in an extensive city missionary enterprise. About fifty of them have thoroughly canvassed the city, and have taken how many families are not connected with any church and the religious standing of those who are.

The twenty-two missionary societies in the United States managed by women, and whose support comes from women, support 751 missionaries, last year contributed \$1,025,233, and since their organization have contributed \$10,355,124.

The forces of Great Britain, Continental Europe and the United States have an annual income of \$9,390,590; man and equip 9,550 stations; support 5,481 missionaries; have the assistance of 32,010 native helpers, and mission churches that have 88,974 communicants and 1,570,653 adherents.

Scarcely had she left the room when a strong, healthy, middle-aged German entered. He wanted some coal. He was well dressed, and everything about him bespoke respectability. His request for assistance was refused by Mr. Mahoney pending an investigation into his needs. He pleaded, "My babies were sick, and he was without

A SCHOOL TEXT BOOK SCHEME

A Peculiar California Job and Its Management.

IT IS SOMEWHAT OF A SWINDLE.

How Much Money There is in it For Some People—Some Disadvantages of the Uniform System.

A State Printing Job.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14.—[Special Correspondence of THE BEE.]—At the session of 1887, the legislature of California passed a law that the state should compile, publish and sell its own text-books. The first act provided for three readers, one speller, one arithmetic, one grammar, one United States history and one geography. Two years later elementary works on arithmetic, grammar and geography and a book on physiology and hygiene were added to the list. These are compiled under the direction of the state board of education, who were authorized to employ competent persons for the purpose and to fix the remuneration of the compilers. It was also provided in the law, that if any individual saw fit to donate a text-book with a copyright, and the exclusive privilege of sale to the state, that the board might accept the gift. The designs for cuts and engravings are all prepared under the direction of the state board and the printing is all done at the state capital under the supervision of the state printer. Copyrights are obtained by the board and the state system is forced upon all districts with no ill.

The first appropriation was \$20,000 for compilation and \$150,000 for the purchase of material and pay of employees. In 1887 the legislature appropriated \$100,000 for a warehouse in which to store the books; \$7,500 to meet the deficiency of the last appropriation; \$15,000 for compiling the additional series and \$165,000 for material, wages and other expenses of publishing, making a grand total of appropriations to date of \$367,500 for the scheme.

The books are furnished to the school districts through the county superintendents mainly, and the county boards of supervisors are compelled to provide the superintendent with a revolving fund to be used in conducting the school book trade. The county superintendents, principals of normal schools and secretaries or clerks of school districts order their books through the state superintendent of public instruction. The prices of books are fixed by the state board, and the cash must accompany each order. The state board of education undertake to furnish the books to pupils at the cost price in Sacramento. A margin is allowed dealers about equal to the cost of mailing the books, if mailed direct to individuals. A dealer desiring to handle the books forwards an affidavit as follows:

"In consideration of receiving for me, upon the enclosed or upon any future order, the series of school text-books, or any part thereof, published by the state of California, I hereby agree that I will not sell to any person or persons for the purpose of being sold again, or to any person or persons beyond the limits of the state of California, and that I will not sell said series

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of text books, or any part or portion thereof, at a price exceeding the price to the pupil fixed by the state board of education.

The following table shows the prices of books so far prepared and ready for use:

| Name of Book. | Cost to State | By Mail | Price to Pupil |
|---------------------|---------------|----------|----------------|
| First Reader | 15 cents | 20 cents | 25 cents |
| Second Reader | 15 cents | 20 cents | 25 cents |
| Third Reader | 15 cents | 20 cents | 25 cents |
| Speller | 10 cents | 15 cents | 20 cents |
| Primary No. 1 | 25 cents | 30 cents | 35 cents |
| Advanced Arithmetic | 45 cents | 50 cents | 55 cents |
| English Grammar | 45 cents | 50 cents | 55 cents |
| U. S. History | 50 cents | 55 cents | 60 cents |

It will be seen that the dealer is allowed a very narrow margin of profit. The only reason why any dealer is willing to handle the books is found in the indirect benefit resulting from having them in stock.

The whole thing is looked upon by thinking men in this state as a gigantic job. The benefits arising are of great value. First, uniformity of text books; second, cheapness to the pupil. The disadvantages of the scheme are numerous, and recognized very generally by educators outside of the state board. Some of the books are admirable, but they do not all come up to that standard of excellence achieved by eastern publishers. Nearly every teacher thinks it a disadvantage to be limited to the selection of text-books by the production of the fraternity in this state. The grammar, for instance, is commended by one teacher who regards the United States History as a very dry and uninteresting work. It is entirely too heavy for elementary students, and lacks that brightness which gives reputation to some of the works published by the great New York and Chicago firms. The state board selects some eminent instructor and engages him to compile a text book. He may be a superior teacher and a wretched editor. His book comes before the board, is examined and a pressure brought to bear at the right time secures its endorsement. The compiler obtained the job through his political friends, and forces the result of his labors upon the state by the same method. The principle is admittedly bad.

The language of the law effectually shuts out competition, for it offers no bonus for excellence in the preparation of a text book. The compilation is done by some teachers in the state who are paid a per diem. If it opened the competition to competition of eastern experience and knowledge, the results would be far more satisfactory. The city of San Francisco, with its board of education, its skilled teachers, is not permitted to select the series of books to be used in its public schools. It takes the state books, good or bad.

The expense to the state is enormous. The character of printing, not altogether excellent; the opportunity for jobbery unparalleled in the history of state printing schemes. The state board of education, which is supposed to father the idea, is obliged to appear before the legislature as lobbyists in order to secure the appropriations required. The original plan and cost of compilation is a fixed charge, and the expense of printing the books depends upon the skill, economy and honesty of the printing department. The state purports to select the series of books to be used in its public schools. It takes the state books, good or bad.

mentally." Members of the society pledge themselves not to work for less than \$5 a week.

A woman's art club of twenty members has been organized in Philadelphia. The society, which calls itself "Ishemia," is a very merry one and the members manage to extract a great deal of pleasure from life, although they are all poor, orphans, and homeless.

All Paris has returned to the wearing of head dresses, which resemble small and very airy bonnets. Elderly ladies modify them into caps which retain enough of light grass to prevent them from being classed with a cap of the angular old-fashioned woman of twenty-five years ago.

The velvet evening gown is the favorite in Paris. Tulle of black velvet are furnished with panels of black Chantilly over petticoat of gold satin, embroidered in black and gold. The same black and gold appears upon the pointed plastron of the pointed waist. The sleeves are long under the arm and short on top or else draped a la Grecque.

A new feminine enterprise in London is the Women's Penny Paper. This journal, which is printed, written and conducted solely by women, speaks out boldly on all the Massachusetts legislature, at its present session, to become of some importance as a political factor. It will be conducted on independent principles, treating all questions in a broad way, its object being to give the middle class benefit of intelligence and unprejudiced opinion.

EDUCATIONAL

The Chicago Theological seminary has received subscriptions to the amount of \$300,000 to further its general purposes.

The Harvard authorities will petition the Massachusetts legislature, at its present session, to pass a bill permitting an increase of the property holdings of the university.

The Philadelphia Woman's Medical college, in its thirty-ninth year. Last year it matriculated 130 women, representing every state in the union, as well as Australia, Japan and China.

A new general catalogue of Columbia college has been prepared by Prof. Howard J. Van Amringe. There have been since 1754, A. D., 10,214 graduates, of whom 7,941 are now living.

The Yale glee and banjo clubs enjoyed their western tour quite as much as the people who heard their performances. They went as far west as Denver and were feted everywhere they went.

By the will of the late John S. Welles, of Hartford, Conn., the sum of \$18,000 is given to Yale university for the assistance of students "pursuing studies with a view of entering the gospel ministry."

The trustees of the University of Pennsylvania on Tuesday made the following appointments: Prof. Horace Jayne, dean of the faculty; Dr. Charles S. DuRoi, professor of general biology, dean of the biological department; Prof. John Ashhurst, jr., to succeed Prof. John Agnew as professor of surgery.

The new library building for Yale university—the gift of S. B. Childtenden as a memorial to his daughter—by the completion of its roof now exhibits quite clearly the general effect of a dignified and interesting structure. It should not be confounded with the building in course of erection on the site of the old college fence—by an unknown benefactor—which has no connection with the college library system.

The problem of self-government has, perhaps, nowhere in this country been worked out to wiser and better results than in Amherst college senate. This body is composed of the president of the college, Dr. Seelye, and ten undergraduates, to whom are transferred all the questions of moral discipline connected with the institution. This senate not only voices, but directs college sentiment on matters submitted to their jurisdiction, and such has been the weight attached to their judgment by the college, and such the growth of their sense of responsibility in deciding current questions, that their decisions have rarely been questioned.

For Constipation

Use Horsford's Acid Phosphate. Dr. J. H. Forster, Kiowa, Ind., Ter., says: "I have tried it for constipation, with success, and think it worth a thorough trial by the profession."